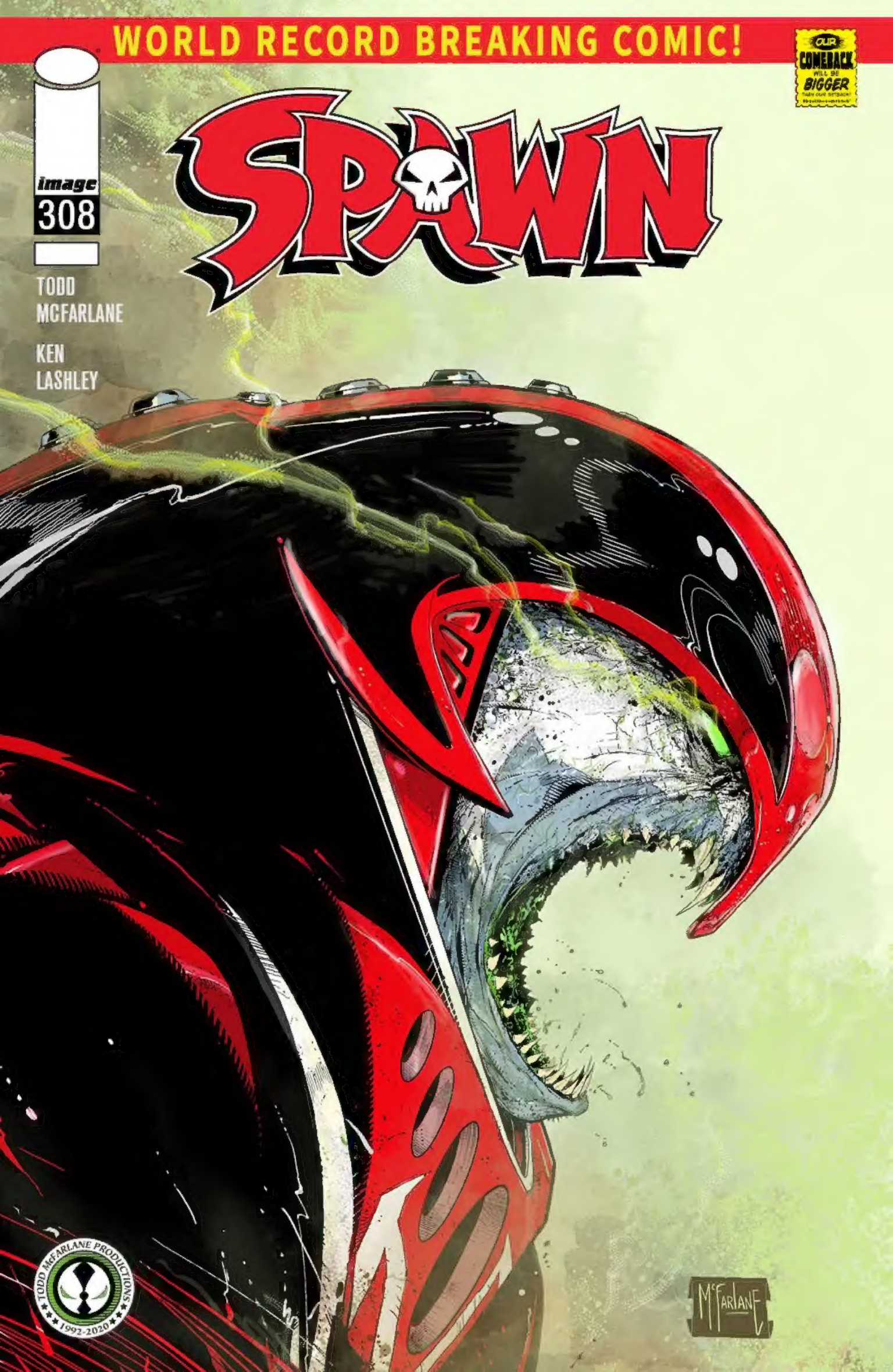
WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!
OUR COMEBACK WILL BE BIGGER THAN OUR SETBACK!
image
308
SPAWN
TODD MCFARLANE
KEN LASHLEY
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
1992-2020
McFARLANE

SPAWN

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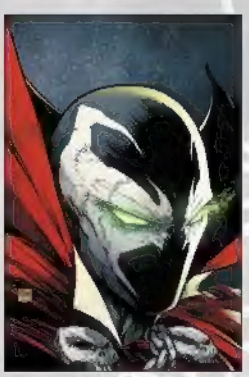

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

In Prophecy of Death Part 2 – The Battle between Spawn and Raptor rages on. Neither one able to gain the upper hand. The stalemate begins to lead down the path towards their mutual destruction. As the conflict enters the realm of Darkness, Spawn and Raptor's minds become one. It is there that Spawn learns the terrible truth... The Beast has been set free!

image

TODD McFARLANE
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...AND SO TONIGHT, GENTLEMEN, I RAISE MY GLASS.
TONIGHT, I TOAST OUR FUTURE.
AS WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING, OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY IS FAR FROM ASSURED, BUT IF RECENT EVENTS ARE ANY INDICATION...THE ODDS OF ATTAINING THAT VICTORY HAVE RADIALLY INCREASED. WITH CLOWN OUT OF THE PICTURE OUR COALITION'S IS NOW IN CHARGE.
I'M SURE HEAVEN'S AGENTS WILL RESIST JOINING US, BUT SOON THEY'LL SEE THE LIGHT BECAUSE SOON THEY WON'T HAVE AN OPTION.
THE SAME WILL BECOME TRUE FOR THOSE LOYAL TO SPAWN.

WE'RE ON THE PRECIPICE OF CREATING A FOUNDATION SO STRONG, SO MASSIVE...SO RICH WITH RESOURCES, THAT HELL WILL NEVER AGAIN HAVE TO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS. THE HUMANS HAVE HAD FREE REIN FAR TOO LONG.
WE MAY LOOK LIKE THEM--ACT LIKE THEM--BUT NEVER FORGET YOUR HERITAGE OR YOUR SUPERIORITY. THOSE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM HAVEN'T. THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU.
ALL OF YOU HAVE THE MONEY AND INFLUENCE TO BEGIN TO TILT THE FIELD IN OUR FAVOR. BUT FOR THE TIME BEING WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PARTS. WE CAN'T GIVE ANY MEDIA OUTLET A HINT OF OUR EXISTENCE.
SPAWN HAS THEM ALL CRAWLING OVER THEMSELVES CHASING DOWN 'CONSPIRACIES.'
WE DON'T WANT THEM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH. SO, DEFLECT, DISTRACT AND DENY EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE THE GREATEST *'HELL-HOUNDS'* EVER AMASSED, AND NOTHING SPAWN OR THE HUMANS DO WILL INTERFERE WITH THE POWER WE'RE ABOUT TO GRAB.

AND THE IRONY OF IT ALL, IS SPAWN HIMSELF HAS GIVEN US THIS OPPORTUNITY.
YOU'VE ALL HEARD WHAT HAPPENED AT CLOWN'S ALBANIA INSTALLATION?* WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT IT ALSO CREATED A "WRINKLE."
A TEMPORARY PORTAL IN TIME.
AL SIMMONS IS NO LONGER ALONE. OTHER SPAWNS HAVE ARRIVED.
BUT THEY WERE ALL BORN IN HELL TOO. WHICH MEANS THEY WON'T ALL BE ENEMIES. AND IF WE CAN PERSUADE MOST OF THEM TO JOIN OUR SIDE, THEN MR. SIMMONS MAY HAVE JUST DELIVERED TO US THE VERY WEAPONS THAT WILL DESTROY HIM.
*Issues 300 and 301--Todd

MY FIELD AGENTS REPORT THAT ONE OF THE NEW ROGUE SPAWNS, THE ONE MALEBOLGIA CALLED "MEDIEVAL SPAWN," NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING SIMMONS. HE DIDN'T.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT DOES, IS THE FACT THAT A SPAWN ANY SPAWN WOULD FIGHT ONE OF ITS OWN. THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED. ***NOT ONCE!*** HELLSPAWNS ARE CREATED TO HONE THEIR SKILLS IN WHATEVER FASHION NECESSARY. THAT REQUIRES THEM TO FIGHT AND BATTLE ANYTHING THAT COMES THEIR WAY. DEMONS. ANGELS. HUMANS. THEY'RE CREATED TO SLAUGHTER EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS.

WITH ONE EXCEPTION...

A SPAWN HAS NEVER KILLED ***ANOTHER SPAWN.*** EVER.

IT'S THE ONE SINGLE RULE THAT HAS BIND'S ALL SPAWNS TOGETHER. KILL ANYTHING...BUT ***NEVER*** YOUR OWN! TWO DAYS AGO, THAT RULE WAS SHATTERED. AL SIMMONS DECAPITATED ONE OF HIS OWN. WHY?

BECAUSE IF HE HADN'T, MEDIEVAL SPAWN WOULD HAVE CUT HIS HEAD OFF INSTEAD. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT MEANS? NO LONGER ARE THEY LOYAL OR FAITHFUL TO THEIR CAUSE. THEY ALL-- EVERY ONE OF THESE NEW SPAWNS--IS SERVING THEIR OWN NEEDS FIRST. WE CAN EXPLOIT THAT BY MAKING SURE NONE OF THEM EVER TRUSTS EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I'VE ALREADY SET THAT IN MOTION, BANNISTER.

COG!
SORRY FOR MY LATE ARRIVAL. I APOLOGIZE.
YOU WEREN'T INVITED HERE.
YOUR SECURITY TEAM SAID THE SAME THING. ASK THEM HOW THAT WENT?
WE DON'T NEED YOUR KIND. NOT ANYMORE.
ACTUALLY, YOU DO.
BECAUSE THESE NEW HELLSPAWNS, THEY WON'T THINK OR ACT THE WAY THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. SOME WILL BE BLANK SLATES LOOKING TO ATTACH THEMSELVES TO THE CLOSEST HOST, AND IF THEY DO THAT, THE RANDOMNESS OF JOINING THOSE HUMAN HOSTS WILL CREATE THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU SPOKE ABOUT.
BUT I PROMISE YOU ONE THING, NONE OF YOU WILL GET ***WITHIN A HUNDRED FEET*** OF THEM WITHOUT ME MASKING YOUR STENCH.

THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE SEEN A STRING OF EVENTS THAT ARE TESTING THE LIMITS OF OUR GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A TIME IN MODERN HISTORY THAT, AS A NATION, AMERICA HAS NEEDED TO DEAL WITH SUCH CHALLENGES TO ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND HEALTH ISSUES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

BECAUSE OF THE ATTENTION THESE ISSUES ATTRACTED, MANY IMPORTANT STORIES WERE PUSHED TO THE BACKGROUND. AS YOU RECALL, THE STOCK MARKET BEGAN ITS DECLINE EARLY IN THE YEAR. THEN, NEW YORK CITY WAS ROCKED BY BATTLES TIED TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE MASKED HERO WHO SAYS HE IS AL SIMMONS, A PERSON THE PENTAGON HAD REPORTED TO HAVE DIED, SOME YEARS AGO.

AS MEDIA OUTLETS BEGAN INVESTIGATING THIS MAJOR INCONSISTENCY, IT WAS BURIED BENEATH REPORTS OF A NEW VIRUS THAT APPEARS TO BE SPREADING TO EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

MOST WORLD LEADERS WERE DEALING WITH ***GLOBAL STOCK MARKET CRASHES*** WHEN THEY HAD TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO A ***VIRAL OUTBREAK.*** MANY OF THEIR CITIZENS HAVE BY NOW CONTRACTED AN ***UNKNOWN VIRUS*** THAT DOCTORS ARE CAUTIOUSLY SUGGESTING WILL BE ***MORE DEVASTING*** THAN THE ***S.A.R.S. OUTBREAK*** OF NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO. CONFLICTING MEDICAL OPINIONS ARE ALREADY ADDING ***CONTROVERSY*** TO THIS ***SERIOUS*** SITUATION.

GROUPS ADVOCATING FOR GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE ***TRANSPARENCY*** ARE FEARFUL. THEY CLAIM THAT THIS NEW HEALTH ISSUE WILL DISTRACT US FROM IMPORTANT ***UNDERLYING ISSUES.*** WHY, THEY ASK, DO SO MANY LEADERS AROUND THE GLOBE SEEM TO BE TIED TO DEALINGS WITH MULTINATIONAL BUSINESSES WHICH, THEMSELVES, CARRY A TAINT OF ***CORRUPTION.***

HISTORY HAS SHOWN, THAT GIVEN THE CHANCE, MEN OF ***LOW MORAL CONVICTIONS*** WILL ENRICH THEMSELVES WHILE OTHER ***SUFFER.*** THIS IS WHEN ***CONSPIRACY THEORY*** CROSSES OVER INTO ***REALITY.***

FAKE NEWS! FAKE NEWS!!

OPEN YOUR ***EYES,*** FOR GOD'S SAKE!

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS OUR COUNTRY, AND MOST OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS, HAS **FLOURISHED** WITH **RECORD HIGH EMPLOYMENT!** AND THAT ECONOMIC BOOM HAS TRICKLED DOWN TO **ALL** PEOPLE OF **EVERY** TYPE OF BACKGROUND. **NOW,** JEALOUS **HACKS** ARE TRYING TO **TEAR DOWN** THOSE GREAT LEADERS, AND ESPECIALLY OUR OWN **PREFECT** PRESIDENT.

EVERY **HOAX** AND **WITCH HUNT** THEY CAN **THINK OF** IS BEING THROWN OUT TO SCARE US INTO THINKING THAT **WE'RE ALL GOING TO LOSE ALL OF OUR MONEY AND OUR LIVES!** CHINA AND THE **DEEP STATE** HAVE PARTNERED IN A **HIDEOUS PLOT!** FIRST, THEY INVENTED A DISEASE, THEN **INFECTED THEIR OWN PEOPLE,** THEN SENT SOME AROUND THE WORLD AND GOT A BUNCH TO **DIE** SO THEY COULD CALL IT A **"PANDEMIC!"**

AND IF ALL THAT WORKS THEN THEY CAN **BLAME IT** ON OUR **MAGNIFICENT,** STABLE GENIUS LEADER OF A **PRESIDENT.** OH, AND I FORGOT TO ADD THAT THEY WILL **WILLINGLY CRATER THEIR OWN JOBS TOO!!** ...ALL WITH THE GOAL OF **DESTROYING OUR NATION!!!** THEY HATE US FOR BEING **KIND, REVERENT,** AND **WELL ARMED**

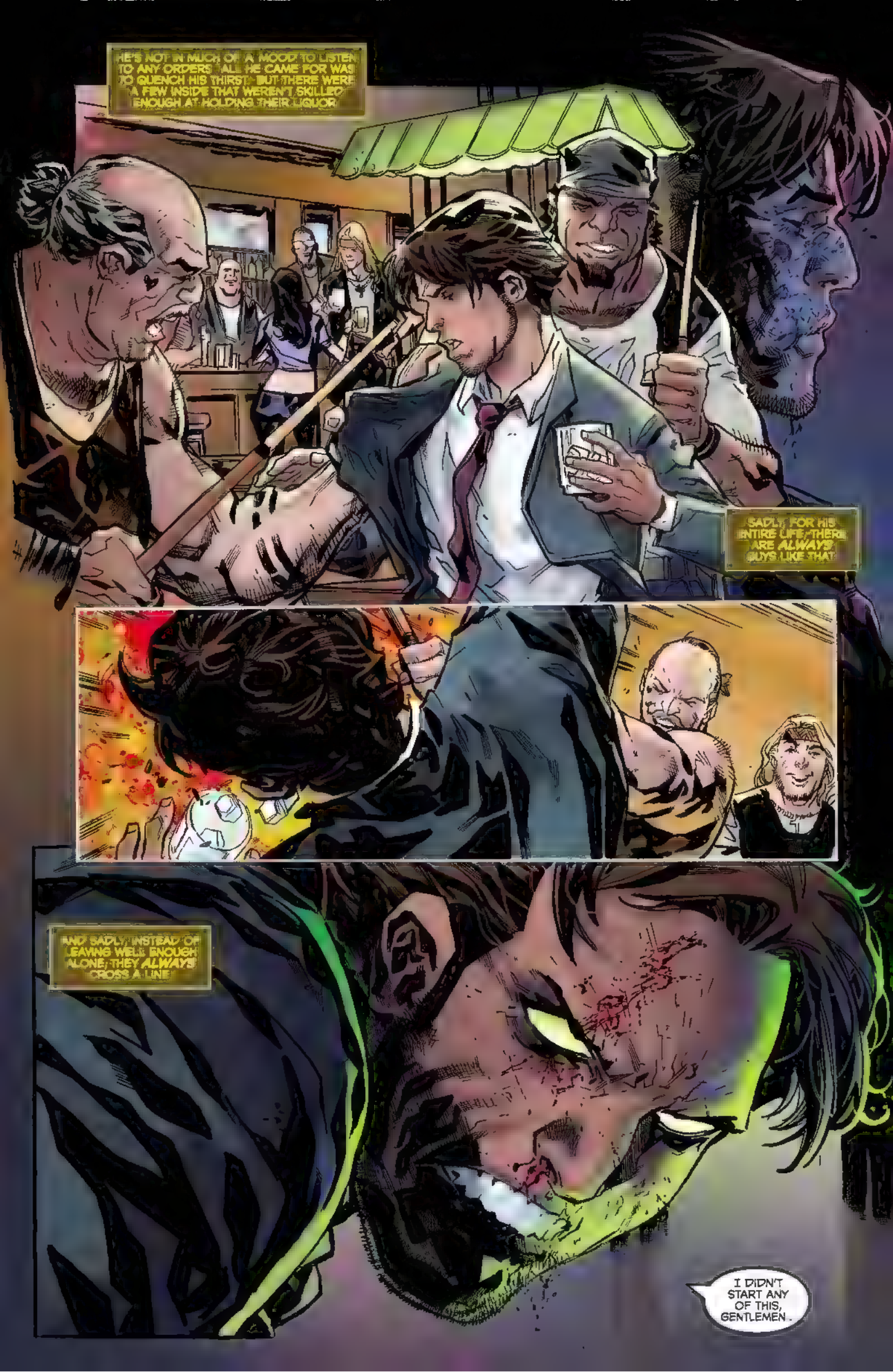
IN AN UNKNOWN LOCATION.
WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT SO FAR?
NOTHING CONCRETE, OTHER THAN WHATEVER WAS INSIDE THAT THING IS GONE. THE READING I WAS GETTING ON THE MAP HAS VANISHED. THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DID IT GO?
COULD IT HAVE PORTED ELSEWHERE?
IT'S POSSIBLE, I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW. BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY ONE LESS BLIP ON MY SCREEN.
IT'S NOT GONE. IT'S HIDING.
IF THEY CAN CLOAK THEMSELVES WITHOUT THEIR SYMBIOTE--THAT'S A PROBLEM.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM EXIST.
YOU SAID YOU MET ONE IN THE DARKNESS? AND HE WASN'T TOO FRIENDLY EITHER.*
THAT WASN'T A SPAWN. IT WAS AN AMALGAMATION OF THINGS, BUT ITS ACTIONS WERE ERRATIC TOO. ALMOST TO THE POINT OF DELUSION.
SO, HOW DO WE KNOW THESE THINGS AREN'T ALL COMING TO KILL US?
WE DON'T.
*See the last two issues-- Todd
AWESOME.
WE TAKE THE OFFENSE.
SERIOUSLY?
I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TO RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES. BECAUSE THE READING I'M GETTING FROM YOU ISN'T ANYWHERE CLOSE TO WHAT SOME OF THOSE OTHERS ARE INDICATING.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO ARMOR UP THEN.
THAT'S SUICIDE.
YOU'RE WRONG.
DO.NG *NOTHING* IS WHAT'LL GET US ALL KILLED. WHEN AN ENEMY ADVANCES, YOJ CONFRONT THEM. EVERY SECOND YOU HESITATE YOJ'RE GIVING THEM MORE GROJND
YOU TH.NK HEAVEN OR HELL ARE GO.NG TO WAIT? THAT THEY'RE GOING TO ANA.YZE THIS TO DEATH? *NO!* THEY'RE GO.NG TO TRY GETTING TO AS MANY OF THEM AS THEY CAN. THOSE THEY DEEM WORTH-WHILE THEY'LL LIE TO THEM.
THE OTHERS THEY'LL JUST KILL.
AND SOME OF THEM COULD BE VA..UABLE TO US.
EXACTLY.

THEIR CONVERSATION GOES ON AT LENGTH. THEN MARC GIVES THEM THE COORDINATES OF A READING HALFWAY ACROSS THE GLOBE.
GOOD LUCK.
IT'S AGREED TO THAT SHE-SPAWN AND THE REAPER WILL DO THEIR OWN 'ASSESSMENT' ON ONE OF THE WEAKER READINGS. THEIR FIRST GOAL IS TO EVEN SEE WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH.
THEIR SECOND GOAL IS TO SEE, WHATEVER THEY'RE ABOUT TO MEET, IF IT'S FRIEND OR FOE. FOR JESSICA, SHE'S BEEN CHOMPING AT THE BIT FOR THIS CHANCE.
SHE'S KNOWN FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT IF THEY DON'T SOON GET ALL SOME REINFORCEMENTS, HIS BLIND FOCUS WILL LEAD THEM ALL INTO OBLIVION.
SO, WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT SHE'S GOING TO FIND SOMEONE HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO EVENTUALLY TRUST.

A DIVE BAR OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF LANARK, NEW MEXICO. TEMPERATURE: 97 DEGREES.
HIS NAME IS JAVIER. HIS LAST NAME ISN'T IMPORTANT. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE SHOULD DO NEXT. MAYBE NURSE ANOTHER WHISKEY. SHOT IS HIS BEST OPTION.
OR MAYBE HE SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR, SINCE THE LOCALS AROUND HERE SEEM A BIT HOSTILE TOWARDS HIM.
THOUGH THE NINE BODIES STREWN ACROSS THE FLOOR MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, JAVIER!
flip
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP! YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
JAVIER FINISHES HIS DRINK.


HE'S NOT IN MUCH OF A MOOD TO LISTEN TO ANY ORDERS. ALL HE CAME FOR WAS TO QUENCH HIS THIRST. BUT THERE WERE A FEW INSIDE THAT WEREN'T SKILLED ENOUGH AT HOLDING THEIR LIQUOR.
SADLY, FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE, THERE ARE ALWAYS GUYS LIKE THAT.
AND SADLY, INSTEAD OF LEAVING WELL ENOUGH ALONE, THEY ALWAYS CROSS A LINE.
I DIDN'T START ANY OF THIS, GENTLEMEN.

...BUT I'M SURE AS SHIT GOING TO FINISH IT!
SMAT
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
KOSH
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

AND THOUGH HE DOESN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND HOW SOME OF THE GADGETS AND GUNS WORK IN THIS WORLD, HE KNOWS THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE ON HOW A GOOD OLD HAND-TO-HAND BAR BRAWL WORKS.
HIS ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT IS THAT THERE WERE ONLY NINE OF THEM.

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED EVENTUALLY HE DID STEP OUTSIDE LIKE THEY ASKED, BUT ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE RETURNING FOR ANOTHER DRINK
PROUD OF YOURSELF, ARE YOU?
I THOUGHT I SMELLED SOMETHING.
IT'S THE HELL-HOUND. . . BUT HE'S STAYING OUTSIDE.
THAT'S SMART.
MIND IF I JOIN YOU FOR A DRINK?
DEPENDS.
TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO YOU
THAT A FACT?
BLAM
vip
ON WHY YOU'RE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE
ON WHAT?

HEAR YOU'VE BEEN MAKING YOUR FA R SHARE OF ENEMIES, LATELY.
I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT YOU NOW, SIT DOWN!
YOU DONE?
SO, IT'S TRUE. OLD MAN COGL OSTRO STILL HAS A BIT OF SPAWN LEFT IN HIM.
I GET THE FIRST QUESTION.. HOW DID I GET HERE?
ANOTHER SPAWN OPENED A HOLE AND YOU FELL INTO IT.
FIGURED IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
MY TURN .. HOW MUCH POWER DO YOU HAVE LEFT?
IT ALWAYS MATTERS!
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST GRAB ANY HOST BODY YOU WANT? HUMANS AREN'T BUILT FOR IT!
CRAK
DOESN'T MATTER

"THE ONE YOU'VE GOT NOW WILL SHRIVEL AND DIE OUT IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS."
BOOKS
"I WAS IN THAT TOWN YOU LANDED IN BACK THERE. THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE, DID THEY? YOU POISONED THEM, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
"THAT'S NOT NORMAL. AND WHATEVER BROUGHT YOU HERE YOU'VE NOW BEEN *TAINTED!* AND IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SOON, YOU'RE GOING TO SHRIVEL AWAY TOO."
AND WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
"I HOPE *YOU DON'T!* STAY COCKY! MEANS I'LL HAVE ONE LESS SPAWN TO COMPETE WITH-- BECAUSE YOU'RE A DEAD MAN IF YOU GO IT ALONE. YOUR CHOICE."

THE GUNSLINGER SPAWN CONCEDES. HE'S STARTING TO FEEL HIS BODY WEAKENING. COG AND HE AGREE THAT HE NEEDS TO GO BACK INTO THE TOWN AS A WAY OF TESTING WHAT WENT WRONG, HOPING TO DISCOVER A WAY TO STOP HIS CONDITION.
THEY'LL BE WATCHING YOU.
AREN'T THEY ALWAYS?
THIS IS DIFFERENT. EVERY AGENT OF HEAVEN AND HELL HAS BEEN LOCKED HERE ON EARTH, AND THEY'RE NOT KEEN ON THE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER SPAWN.
READY?
YEP.
I ONLY ASK ONE THING.
KEEP THIS AWAY FROM ME. I HAVE A BAD HISTORY WITH THEIR KIND.
snort

GOOD LUCK.
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ALL THIS, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LONER.
I'VE GOT MY REASONS.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

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